

Name: _____

Hour: _____

Analyzing Source: European Trade in Asia

Whatever silver the merchants carry with them to China, the lord of China will take from them and put into his own bank. The Chinese then give paper money of theirs in exchange... with this paper money you can easily buy silk and other goods... and all the people of the country are required to accept it. you shall not pay a higher price for your goods because your money is of paper... for it is as good as the silver itself.

-Francesco Balducci Pegolotti (*An Italian commercial agent, the passage is taken from his guidebook that was written around 1340 for European merchants traveling overland to China*)

1. Who wrote the passage?
2. How might his PoV, or point of view, impact (gender, nationality, age...) his ideas?
3. Would the author have knowledge or awareness of the topic to make him accurate?
4. How might being guidebook for sale impact the message of the document?

"Your majesty (King of Portugal) if we deny them [Muslims] of their traditional market, there isn't a single port in the whole area, where they can trade goods. . . It is a sure thing, if we take Malacca (trade port in Malaysia) out of their hands... then Cairo and Mecca are entirely ruined, and to Venice no spices will be traded, except for the spices her merchants go and buy in Portugal.

-Afonso de Albuquerque (Duke of the Portuguese trade capital of Goa, India), excerpt from *The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalbuquerque*, 1511.

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4. How might being a letter meant for the king change the document's message?